



Massachusetts 2012 Annual Performance Report Summary

Lead Agency: Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)

Participating State Agencies: Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE), Department of Higher Education (DHE), Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Children and Families (DCF), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Office for Refugee and Immigrants (ORI), Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the State Advisory Council, and Massachusetts Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO), Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) and the Children's Trust Fund (CTF). The EEC Board (State Advisory Council/SAC) continues to offer strategic leadership to EEC.

Amount of Grant: \$50,000,000

Focused Investment Areas Addressed:

- (C)(1) Developing and using statewide, high-quality Early Learning and Development Standards.
- (C)(2) Supporting effective uses of Comprehensive Assessment Systems.
- (C)(4) Engaging and supporting families.
- (D)(2) Supporting Early Childhood Educators in improving their knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- (E)(1) Understanding the status of children's learning and development at kindergarten entry.
- (E)(2) Building or enhancing an early learning data system to improve instruction, practices, services, and policies.

Highlights of 2012 Accomplishments (excerpted from Executive Summary):

PROGRAM QUALITY: *High Quality Accountable Programs, Early Learning and Development Standards*

- 7,941 programs in Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
- Launch of the QRIS Validation Study to determine if QRIS self-assessed levels and validated levels reflect differences in program quality and lead to child outcomes
- Completion of EEC's Alignment Study of the state's Infant, Toddler, and Preschool Learning Guidelines with the MA Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts and Mathematics for pre-K and kindergarten and the Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework

EDUCATOR QUALITY: *Early Childhood Education Workforce*

- 332 professional development opportunities aligned with QRIS Standards, MA Curriculum Frameworks, and Infant, Toddler and Preschool Learning Guidelines

- 120 early educators from private and public early education programs participated in discussions which support birth to third grade alignment, social and emotional development and promoting STEM at the Early Educators Fellowship Institute professional development series, 17 received college credit

SCREENING & ASSESSMENTS: *Comprehensive Assessment Systems*

- 20 public school districts participating in the Massachusetts Kindergarten Entry Assessment (MKEA) to use formative assessment tools Teaching Strategies GOLD or Work Sampling System to collect child data to improve teaching and learning
- Child development screening tool Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) available to parents in 338 cities and towns across the state

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: *Engaging and Supporting Families*

- 24 communities serving over 8,000 children received grants to implement evidence based literacy models to help parents develop their child's literacy skills
- Partnership with museums and libraries to support parents in their children's learning and development in the areas of early literacy, preparation for kindergarten, and STEM

INFRASTRUCTURE: *Successful State Systems, Early Learning Data Systems*

- Two leadership retreats with 100% participation of all child-serving state agencies
- Components of the state's Early Childhood Information System (ECIS) developed include 12 data reports on children in subsidized programs (child demographics and attendance).